

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS AND RADIO NEWS BRIEFING,
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 14, 1962, 7:00pm

MR. COX: There were three sessions today. The morning sessions consisted of a brief private talk between the President and the Chancellor, which concerned itself primarily with a review of the recent Cuban developments and a brief, informal assessment as to where we now stand in this.

Q And what--I am sorry.

A A brief, informal assessment as to where we now stand in the Cuban situation.

The President and the Chancellor then joined a larger group for the main morning session.

On the German side: The Chancellor, Foreign Minister Schroeder, Ambassador Knappstein.

Q What is his first name, please?

A Heinrich.

Q He is not a "von", is he?

A No.

Q No; that is the one exception.

Q Yes.

A Dr. Carstens, Karl with a "k".

Q Under Secretary of State?

A Right. Well, actually the title given here

IS State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
This is the official title.

Q Yes.

A Karl-Guenther von Haase, the Chief of the--

Q That is again a "k" for Karl?

A Yes, but the Karl-Guenther is hyphenated.

Q With an umlaut?

A I am not really sure. Klaus, you may be able to supply the umlaut; I don't have it here. I think it is "Guenther" and not "Gunther". And Dr. Hans-Albert Reinkemeyer, Officer in Charge, Soviet Affairs, of the German Foreign Office.

On the American side: In addition to the President, the Secretary of State, the Under Secretary, Ambassador Thompson, Ambassador Dowling--

Q Dowling is Walter?

A Walter C. Dowling, Mr. McGeorge Bundy, and Mr. William Tyler, Assistant Secretary for European Affairs.

Q Yes.

A The second session, a longer session, covered the period from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The talks were conducted in the usual cordial, informal, and businesslike manner, which has characterized previous sessions with the Chancellor. The participants covered a

a rather wide range of subject matter, which included, among other things: (1) a review of East-West relations; (2) assessment of Soviet intentions--

Q Regarding Berlin, Cuba, what?

A Just generally, Freddy. Worldwide.

Q Yes.

A (3) Berlin and Germany--

Q Yes.

A (4) Cuba; (5) NATO matters, and (6) the

China-India situation.

I might point out here that in the second morning session, or the second part of the morning session, in the plenary, the President and the Chancellor covered much of the same ground that was covered in their private conversation on principally Cuba, and at the plenary session the Chancellor and his Delegation were shown some of the reconnaissance photographs relating to the Soviet missile sites.

Q In the two sessions, you mean? In the plenary session?

A In the plenary session, yes.

Q Reconnaissance. I am sorry. I didn't get "reconnaissance."

A Were shown photo reconnaissance of the Soviet

missile bases in Cuba.

Q Were these the early ones, that you know, or the later ones, Henry?

A I think it was rather a complete rundown. I wasn't there. I am sorry, I didn't ask whether--

Q They were never sent these photos--

A They were the latest ones.

Q--At the time that they were sent to Macmillan and de Gaulle, they were never sent to them?

A That I cannot answer.

The afternoon session, which lasted from 4:30 to 5:50, concentrated primarily on all aspects of the German and Berlin questions. This was a smaller session with the President, the Secretary of State, and Assistant Secretary of State Tyler on the American side, and the Chancellor, Foreign Minister Schroeder, and Dr. Carstens on the German side, -plus a German and an American interpreter.

That is about all I have to volunteer.

Q Can I ask if any of the correspondence between Khrushchev and Kennedy which was not published, whether any of this came up during the meeting?

A Not to my knowledge, Joe.

Q There had been speculation about it.

A Yes. So far as I know, this did not come up.

Q Henry, is this background, or on the record?

A No; this is on the record.

MR. REAP: Did you give them the names of the Americans?

MR. COX: Yes.

Q Henry, pardon my ignorance, I haven't been watching this very carefully. Which Under Secretary was this?

A This was Mr. Ball.

Q Ball.

A Yes. Before we go any further here, I would also like to report that a session took place this afternoon between Under Secretary Ball and Foreign Minister Schroeder. This session lasted approximately one hour and twenty minutes, and among the topics covered there were: (1) Franco-German talks in this general area of Franco-German rapprochement; (2) the European Economic Community and the question of the accession to the EEC of the United Kingdom; (3) NATO matters.

Q We can quote you by name, I mean, as a State Department spokesman?

A Yes.

We don't know whether there will be anything to report after the dinner this evening. However, Mr. Manning

has indicated a willingness to come down here following the dinner, if there should be any need for this, or desire for it. If not, if the consensus is that this is not necessary, I think it would be helpful to him perhaps if we informed him.

Q We have solid vote against it down here.

A Fine. I will call him and tell him then. I am sure this will be almost 99% social anyway.

Q If we had a reporter who required disciplinary action, I would--

MR. REAP: I would think that if this were changed at all, Henry, that Manning ought to go down to the lobby rather than up here.

MR. COX: Right.

MR. REAP: Generally the services send others over here who don't have the credentials to get in the building at that hour.

MR. COX: Well, I really myself don't feel that there will be very much of anything to report after this dinner. Normally you don't get much from this kind of a social event.

Thank you very much.

Q Aren't we voting against it?

A Yes; I gather that you are.

Q Yes.

Q Can I ask about some of the pictures?

Among the pictures, were some of those the pictures that convinced our side that the missile bases have been dismantled?

A I would assume also. This was a fairly thorough briefing given to the Chancellor on developments to date.

Q The dismantling of bases?

A Yes.

Q Do you want to say, on background or on the record or any other way, whether today they discussed any new allied diplomatic approach on the Berlin issue?

Background

No; I think that the general feeling was that we must take one thing at a time. The Cuban situation is still with us very much, and until this is resolved I think that we are not disposed to go on to other subjects. There will be plenty of time once this has been tidied up to reconsider the situation, review the situation, and determine then whether or not further steps in the direction of East-West talks would be called for. But certainly the talks today did not go into the question of any new initiatives on our part.

Q Neither regarding Berlin in particular nor on a wider scale?

A That is correct.

Q Since I asked either on the record or on background, I had better ask how you want this reported, what you just said--on the record is that all right?

A I would prefer it on a background basis, if you don't mind, although I don't see any problem here with this.

Q You are the boss.

A I would prefer that particular part on background. *End Background*

Q Henry, when you said that there is no disposition on our part to go ahead with this other Berlin negotiations idea until the Cuban is resolved, were you referring to the American view, or a consensus between the two sides?

A Well, first of all, I didn't mean to pin this down necessarily to Berlin primarily as far as initiatives were concerned, but this was a consensus, I believe, between the Chancellor and the President, that we have to tend to first things first, and the Cuban situation is the first order of business.

Q Did the President go into any explanation of the remark he made in his toast about that this might possibly be a turning point in relations between East and

and West?

A Not so far as I am aware, Joe.

Q Is it your impression that the Chancellor is more convinced now than he was that the missiles are out of there?

A I would not want to draw any conclusions. I was not there, and I think that it would be inappropriate for me to try to hazard an evaluation on the basis of what information I have at hand.

A Well, do you know if the Chancellor gave the President a review of the German internal political situation?

A As far as I know, he did not.

Q Thank you very much, Henry.

(Whereupon, at 7:16 p.m., the briefing was concluded.)

LINCOLN WHITE